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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

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NEWSLETTER TOPICS

REA TO OBSERVE 11TH BIRTHDAY WITH
BIGGEST JOB IN HISTORY UNDER WAY

REA will observe its 11th anniversary May 11, with the rural electrification program rapidly nearing the greatest peak of activity in its history.

Congress has authorized REA to lend \$300,000,000 during the current fiscal year. An appropriation of \$250,000,000 for the 1947 fiscal year is under consideration. This proposed two-year fund is \$20,000,000 more than the total available for REA loans during the first ten years of the agency's operations.

The heavy increase in REA loan authorizations stems from the great number of service applications filed with REA borrowers by rural people who do not yet have electricity. REA and its borrowers anticipated a strong post-war demand for rural electrification and plans for a huge construction program were made in advance. The tremendous volume of applications has far exceeded all expectations.

In the last half of 1945, loan allocations were approved for 34 new borrowers, and hundreds of previous borrowers, 12 new systems were energized, and 113,000 new rural consumers were added to REA-financed lines. By December, new consumer connections attained a monthly average of 18,000, just under the pre-war peak.

Only serious shortages of materials and labor have kept the volume of new construction and consumer connections from exceeding pre-war records. Reconversion problems, strikes and other factors have delayed production of line hardware. The supply of poles has been far short of the demand. REA experts and co-op officials are working vigorously to overcome these obstacles. New pole sources have been located and line hardware production is on the up trend. Within a reasonable time line construction will be moving at a record-breaking pace.

ADDITIONAL LOAN FUNDS PROVIDED
FOR REA's 1946 LENDING PROGRAM

A deficiency appropriation bill passed by Congress in March provided an additional \$100,000,000 for REA loans during the current fiscal year. With the \$200,000,000 previously authorized, this makes a total of \$300,000,000 available for lending during the year ending June 30, 1946.

Administrator Wickard has already allotted \$50,000,000 of this supplementary appropriation among the various States in accordance with the formula contained in the Rural Electrification Act. The remaining \$50,000,000 is available for loans at the discretion of the Administrator, provided that not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used in any one State.

In announcing the allotments for the several States, Mr. Wickard pointed out that most of the original \$200,000,000 loan authorization has already been allocated by REA to its borrowers. The additional \$100,000,000 just made available will help toward meeting the large volume of loan applications which could not be filled from previously authorized funds.

SEVEN-YEAR TEST SHOWS ECONOMY IN OPERATING ELECTRIC RANGE

By using a test meter on the electric range of Mrs Paul Logan, route 3, Camden, Ohio, the Northwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Montpelier, has obtained valuable information about the energy consumption of this important appliance under strictly home-use conditions. The test meter recorded all energy consumed by the range during a period of seven years for all cooking, canning and water heating for a family of three.

Mrs. Logan uses her range extensively but economically. She uses flat-bottomed utensils that cover surface heating units. She plans deep-well cooking to provide full meals. Oven use is planned to utilize its maximum capacity. She watches heat control closely. For canning, she uses a pressure cooker on a surface unit.

Monthly consumption for the range averaged 99 KWH in 1939. In 1945, this figure increased to 128 KWH. For the 7 years, the monthly average was 116 KWH. Averages for the calendar months varied from a low of 87 for January to a high of 148 for September. Consumption registered higher during the summer months, when Mrs. Logan sometimes put up as many as 300 cans a month.

The Logans also use an iron, two radios, washer, refrigerator, toaster, waffle iron and shallow-well pump. Lighting is provided in the house, including floor and table lamps, and in the barn, storage and poultry buildings. Total farm consumption of electricity for all purposes averaged 236 KWH per month during the 7 years.

Current used by the Logans' range falls in the block that costs them 3 cents per KWH. At this rate, the average monthly cost of operating the range was \$3.48. Average consumption was 1.2756 KWH per meal, costing 3.8268 cents. This is slightly more than one cent per person per meal.

(If you wish to use a comparison, based upon your own rates, it can be computed from the foregoing basic facts.)

EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM TO
HELP U. S. FEED THE STARVING

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has designated State Directors of the Production and Marketing Administration as State Managers of the emergency food program to carry out President Truman's plans to feed the starving millions in Europe and Asia until they can produce to feed themselves. Chairmen of County Agricultural Conservation Committees will serve as County Managers.

Four important tasks have been listed for immediate attention:

1. Set up specific conservation goals for wheat, food fats and oils.
2. Bring the facts to every person through every available medium.
3. Work out food and feed conservation programs adapted to local conditions.
4. Marshall forces of all organizations and groups that will help carry out the program.

REA Administrator Wickard promptly expressed his confidence that REA borrowers and their members, who contributed greatly to the stimulation of food production and conservation during the war, will do their full part in this essential program.

County managers in our area are _____.

(List names and addresses. You may wish to add a paragraph on suggested ways of helping the program in your locality).

1946 NEED FOR VICTORY GARDENS
IS GREATER THAN IN WAR YEARS

At the recent garden conference in Washington, Secretary Anderson said: "There is more need for victory gardens in this first year of peace than there was in any year of War."

The conference, composed of top food officials and garden experts from all parts of the country, set the 1946 goal at 23 million gardens. This is nearly 30 percent greater than the 1945 figure. Not only do we need more gardens, but it is also imperative that every one of them produce to its full capacity and that the foodstuffs grown be conserved, the conference agreed.

Electricity can help in both production and conservation of your garden crops. Your electric water system can protect your garden against loss from dry weather. Tests have shown that garden irrigation increases production. Irrigation with about $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of water per square foot each week is advised if rainfall is inadequate.

Plan to use your garden space for repeat plantings. With intelligent fertilization, cultivation and irrigation you can keep your garden producing until the growing season is over. Your electric refrigerator will keep vegetables garden fresh until you can them. Then your electric range is an efficient helper in the canning process.

OUTPUT OF ELECTRICAL FARM EQUIPMENT SHOWS SOME GAINS

Although dollar value of farm machinery manufactured in February of this year dropped 20 percent below that of the same month a year ago, according to Civilian Production Administration, increases were recorded by several types of electrical equipment. Seven of the eleven classes of machinery registering gains include items that involve the use of electricity. They are: farm elevators and blowers; domestic water systems; farm pumps; irrigation equipment; dairy farm machinery and equipment; barn and barnyard equipment; farm poultry equipment.

CPA based its figures upon reports from 300 concerns, representing 90 percent of industry capacity.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

From newsletter of the Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., Platte City, Mo.: "Guess you will wonder why our bill is a little higher than usual. We have 200 little chickens, seven weeks old last Monday. We bought us a brooder and have only lost seven chickens. They are but little care and no worries with an electric brooder. I would advise anyone who can to start their chickens with one."

From newsletter of the Northern Idaho Electrical Rehabilitation Association, Inc., Sandpoint, Idaho: "A.G. Irish, of the Morton district, has purchased a sprinkling irrigation system, which he proposes to use in alfalfa. For several years Mr. Irish has felt that rain at the right time would greatly increase his second and third cuttings of alfalfa. This is the first system in that area, and we wish Mr. Irish every success."

From newsletter of the Flint Electric Membership Corporation, Reynolds, Georgia: "Mr. J. R. Thous, Butler, found a pole had broken and the wire was on the ground. He immediately called the office so a lineman could go out and fix the wire. Mr. Thous realized that it was a dangerous thing and that if anyone should come in contact with the wire they would be instantly killed."

From newsletter of the Marshall County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, Plymouth, Indiana: "Mrs. Robert O'Neal installed a deep freeze several weeks ago. She is very enthusiastic about the operation of this new appliance. 'I wouldn't do without it for anything,' says Mrs. O'Neal."

From newsletter of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association, Rockwell City, Iowa: "A good number of our members are enjoying good old hot water now that they have installed electric heaters. Among them are Paul Lockner, Merle Doty and Carl Hanson. New electric ranges having new homes and doing their duty are locating the following homes: Wesley Parker, Walter Burko, Ernest Lange and A. D. King."

